

ASSOCIATED PRESS

9 July 1983

STAT

SAN FRANCISCO

FILES SUIT FOR SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE NICARAGUAN
AID

STAT

Rep. Ronald V. Dellums has filed suit seeking appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate allegations that the Reagan administration is illegally financing training for Nicaraguan rebels, his aides said Saturday.

The suit, filed Friday in federal court here, accuses President Reagan and three Cabinet members of violating the Neutrality Act by training Nicaraguan rebels in six states, including California.

At a news conference Saturday, Dellums' aide Lee Halterman said the suit's purpose is to "demand that our president obey the law."

White House spokesman Mark Weinberg, asked about the lawsuit, said late Saturday, "I have nothing on it for you."

Marc Van Der Hout, the attorney who filed the suit on behalf of Dellums, said Reagan, U.S. Attorney General William French Smith, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and CIA Director William Casey were named as defendants.

According to Van Der Hout, somewhere between several hundred and several thousand rebels trained in private camps in the United States had returned to Nicaragua to fight the leftist Sandinista government. One of the bases is in San Bernardino County, he alleged.

The lawsuit charges that alleged training violated not only the 200-year-old Neutrality Act but also last year's Boland amendment, which prohibits the use of U.S. funds for military intervention in Nicaragua.

Dellums, a California Democrat, tried unsuccessfully to persuade the U.S. attorney general to appoint a special prosecutor in the matter.